

Governor's Proposed FY23 Budget Adjustments
Appropriations Hearing
HB 5037 AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30th, 2023
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Thursday, February 24th, 2022

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, Representative Nolan, Senator Miner, Representative France, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Debbie Bruno and I am a registered voter in the city of Bridgeport. I am a member of Bridge House in Bridgeport. I first learned about Bridge House from a friend. I was going through a period of transition with many different endings in my life. I needed to leave my place of employment and my apartment.

I began isolating. And I needed to be part of something positive. It was a very difficult time for me. When I came to Bridge House I was treated with a great deal of compassion. There were no judgements, just acceptance. It meant everything to me.

I developed strong bonds with staff and began making friends. I moved into a new apartment and now live in a better situation. I also had the opportunity to work with our Employment Specialist and obtained a job I really enjoy.

When I first came to Bridge House I had a choice of which unit I wanted to work in. I chose the culinary unit and that influenced what type of work I wanted to do when looking for employment. I now love my job.

If Bridge House was not adequately funded and had to close it would be extremely difficult for me. I would be wondering around getting into trouble. It is very important to have a safe place to go when I am struggling. These are some of the reasons I ask you to increase the funding for mental health services. Thank you.